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Pollard case triggers Israeli spy crisis

By Michael Hedges
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Anne Henderson-Pollard, the wife of accused spy Jonathan Jay Pollard, intended to make "a presentation at the Chinese Embassy" of top-secret documents her husband had hidden, an FBI agent testified yesterday in U.S. District Court.

The Pollards, who were arrested last week, were ordered held without bond yesterday by U.S. Magistrate Patrick Attridge.

Mr. Pollard, 31, who has been charged with espionage for selling secret intelligence to Israel, could face life in prison if convicted. His wife, 25, has been charged with illegal possession of classified information and faces a maximum 10-year sentence. They were among four U.S. citizens who yesterday faced hearings on espionage charges.

Israel Radio reported yesterday that a senior Israeli diplomat, whom the FBI says was the Pollard contact,

returned to Israel and that a second diplomat may be recalled soon, the Associated Press said.

The radio report said the second diplomat was based at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, and there was speculation that other embassy employees were involved.

The Israeli newspaper Al Hamishmar reported that unidentified sources in Washington say "the threads in the Pollard spy affair lead" to former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. The newspaper is po-

litically opposed to Mr. Sharon's Likud Party.

In unrelated cases, a U.S. magistrate in Baltimore ordered Ronald William Pelton, 44, a former analyst with the super-secret National Security Agency, held without bond. A magistrate in Alexandria refused to free Larry Wu-tai Chin, 63, a retired CIA analyst accused of spying for the Chinese government for more than 30 years.

The Pollards presented perhaps the most unsettling case in that it

involved a young, upscale couple and a close U.S. ally.

FBI agent Gene Noltkamper testified yesterday that Mr. Pollard had confessed to selling documents to Israeli agents in the United States over the past 18 months. During that time Mr. Pollard is believed to have received \$2,500 cash a month and money for two trips to Europe from his "handler," according to the FBI.

Mr. Pollard had stored away dozens of "higher than top-secret-rated"

documents at the couple's Dupont Circle apartment — many on the weapon systems of U.S. and foreign governments, and others on the intelligence-gathering methods of foreign nations in the United States, the FBI agents said in testimony.

The information was gained through Mr. Pollard's job at the Naval Investigative Service offices in Suitland, Md., where he worked as an analyst in the anti-terrorist alert center, with a specialty in the Caribbean.

"She had access to, and was clearly familiar with intelligence-gathering capabilities of the People's Republic of China in our country," Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles Leepar told the court.

"We know about it, do they [the Chinese] know we know about it, and how much we know about it?" Mr. Leepar asked. "I suggest that was going to be some presentation. That is the information the government is afraid she will use if released."

Mr. Pollard was first questioned by the FBI on Nov. 18, after agents saw him leaving his office with an envelope that appeared to be the type used to hold classified documents, Mr. Noltkamper said.

In that envelope were 60 documents, one-third of which were rated higher than top secret, the FBI said.

During FBI questioning, he said he was taking the documents to a friend. But when that alibi unraveled, he called his wife, telling her to

"take the cactus out of the apartment," and get some wedding photos out of a closet, the FBI agent said.

According to the testimony, CACTUS is an acronym for a weapons system, which was detailed in some documents later found in a suitcase in the Pollard apartment.

"He merely had to utter the code name for a weapons system and she knew what he meant," said Mr. Leepar, in asking that Mrs. Henderson-Pollard be held without bond.

After the call from her husband, according to the FBI, Mrs. Henderson-Pollard went to an unidentified person and asked that person to retrieve a suitcase she had stashed under a basement stairwell in the Pollards' apartment building.

"The witness was told the suitcase contained classified documents she needed for a presentation she was to make at the Chinese Embassy," Mr. Noltkamper said.

The witness brought her the suitcase, then called the FBI, according to Mr. Noltkamper. Agents got a search warrant and went to the Pollard apartment. Inside the suitcase they found a stack of documents 15-18 inches thick detailing U.S. and foreign weapons systems, and China's intelligence-gathering capabilities, Mr. Noltkamper said.

They also found the couple's wedding photos.

Later, the FBI served another search warrant at the apartment, and found 80 additional classified documents in the couple's bedroom, beneath a box of women's clothing.

On Nov. 21, agents trailing the couple saw them wander around the District in their tan 1980 Ford Mustang, then drive into the Israeli Embassy. They left 10 minutes later, and Mr. Pollard was arrested.

His wife was arrested after she visited him in jail.

He told agents after his arrest that they had called ahead to the embassy and were told, "if you can shake your surveillance, come on in." He said that when they reached the embassy, he could see they were not going to be admitted, and drove away, "before they made a ruckus," Mr. Noltkamper said.

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Mr. Pollard told the FBI that the documents in the suitcase already had been delivered to the Israelis, and were being returned to the Naval Investigative Service, where he had checked them out.

U.S. officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said yesterday that Israel was being uncooperative in the investigation. The Israeli ambassador to the U.S. was summoned to the State Department last night.

Raphael Eitan, a former agent of the Mossad intelligence service who was former Prime Minister Menachem Begin's adviser on counterterrorism, was named Tuesday by two Israeli newspapers as the one who recruited Mr. Pollard. Mr. Begin, in a one-sentence statement offered in response to Israeli newspaper reports, said he had never heard of Pollard.

In other espionage hearings yesterday, Mr. Pelton, 44, the former

NSA analyst, was ordered held without bail by U.S. Magistrate Daniel E. Klein.

Mr. Pelton was arrested Monday at an Annapolis, Md., hotel and charged with espionage and conspiracy to sell U.S. secrets to the Soviet Union.

During questioning earlier this week by the FBI, Mr. Pelton admitted that he had received money from the Soviets on several occasions. Mr. Pelton possessed top-secret clearance while employed at the intelligence-gathering agency between 1965 and 1979.

National Security Administration representatives have confirmed that Mr. Pelton had access to "extremely sensitive" information, the disclosure of which may be potentially damaging to the United States.

In Alexandria, a U.S. magistrate ordered that Mr. Chin, the retired CIA analyst accused of spying for China, be detained without bond on grounds that he likely would flee the country if released.

The ruling came one day after Mr. Chin was indicted on one count of conspiring to commit espionage, a capital offense that carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

The Chinese government, in its first statement on the Chin case, yesterday denied that it had any connection with him and the Foreign Ministry described the charges as "groundless."

"The man has basically been living a lie for 30 years," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Aronica when asking U.S. Magistrate Curtis Sewell

that Mr. Chin be held without bond.

"Were he to flee the country, which we believe he would, he would be welcomed by the Chinese intelligence service with open arms," Mr. Aronica said.

The government has charged that Mr. Chin, who appeared haggard during the two-hour detention hearing, met with Chinese agents on at least a dozen occasions at locations outside the country to turn over secret documents and photographs.

The indictment alleged that Mr. Chin has received a total of \$140,000 from Chinese agents.

Mr. Aronica said the indictment was based largely on statements Mr. Chin made to three FBI agents during a five-hour interview before his arrest last Friday.

But Mr. Aronica said that Mr. Chin has three bank accounts in China and that he would not hesitate to leave the country. He also said Mr. Chin's ties to his family are weak and that Mr. Chin was charged with assault and battery in 1983 for beating his wife.

Peter Meyers, who represents Mr. Chin, said his client would not flee. He also said the 1983 charges against him were dismissed.

Mr. Chin, a mid-level analyst and translator for the Foreign Broadcast Information Service from 1952 to 1981, allegedly was promoted to deputy bureau chief of China's intelligence during a trip to Peking in 1982, Mr. Aronica said.

Staff writers Pam McClintock and John McCaslin contributed to this report, which also includes wire-service material.